

Income Maintenance Advisory Committee
Public Assistance Program Integrity/Fraud Prevention Ad Hoc
Subcommittee
Minutes of Meeting Thursday, September 11, 2003

- Members present: Chair person, Rick Zynda (DHCF), Virginia Wiedenfeld (Richland Co.), Richard Basiliere (Outagamie Co.) Gene Kucharski (WAPAF/ Portage Co.), Richard Eddings (Dane Co.), Charles Billings (PAFU), Pam Kiern (IT section DHCF), Nancy Foss (Medical Policy Sec DHCF), Mary Mireles (Racine Co.), Jeff Brikowski (Food Stamp Section DHFS), Fay Simonini (DWD / PACU), Gloria Guitan (Milwaukee Co.), Lynn Richard (Milwaukee Co.), Mary Pat Mertens (Wood Co.)
- Teleconferencing Nancy Muller (St Croix Co.), Jim Borgeson (Douglas Co.)
- Unable to attend: Mike Poma (Co-Chair/ Milwaukee Co), Tony Welch (PAFU), John Haine (QA Section DHCF)

The meeting was called to order by Rick Zynda at 10:00 AM. All members present and on the telephone briefly introduced themselves and described their normal duties and areas of responsibility.

Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of August 14, 2003 were approved on voice vote (moved by Gene Kucharski; seconded by Rick Basiliere). The Glossary of Terms that was distributed with the minutes was approved with one change. The definition for Error (Fraud) Prevention was changed to read:

Any activities to eliminate or reduce errors including efforts to inform or educate workers and clients in all areas of program integrity.

UCOWF Conference

Rick Zynda reported on the United Council on Welfare Fraud (UCOWF) annual training conference that was held in Baltimore on August 17-21, 2003. Representatives from federal Dept. of Agriculture (Food Stamp program) and Health and Human Services (Children and Families—Child-Care program) also attended the meetings to provide the federal perspective. The major issues discussed at the conference were the Farm Bill and Child-Care – Provider Fraud. Further information on the Child-Care fraud issues can be found at the Council's website (www.ucowf.org). Click on Newsletters, then on Around the Nation.

The group discussed the workgroup that DWD is forming to discuss Child Care Provider Integrity Issues. DWD is also in the process of preparing an application to DHHS for a Demonstration Project on child-care fraud. The need was identified for federal funding aimed at Child-Care fraud other than the amount included in TANF. The group is concerned with defining the roles that DWD and DHFS will play since the demonstration project will be at DWD and the fraud program is administered at DHFS.

CARES Access

There was much discussion regarding access to CARES and who has the authority to access what information – specifically regarding contracted staff (i.e. investigators, W-2 private employees, etc.). Charles Billings reported that access to CARES is a security-related policy. Access is approved on a “need to know” basis. Outside contractors can only get data for specific cases. The group questioned why the contracted investigators are not part of the umbrella groups since the work that they are performing is a required function of the program.

Current policy allows the Economic Support worker to provide paper copies of needed data to the investigator. This is a major workload issue for the Economic Support workers. It is also a problem for the investigators since they often don’t know in advance of requesting data, what data is or is not available. Lack of sufficient funding for error investigations and this workload issue reduces the ability of the investigators to provide the quality of services they have been contracted to provide.

Pam Kiern will have the DHFS Security Officer contact the DWD Security Director (Tim Hinline) on the issue of security access for contracted investigators.

IPV’s

A review of the Medicaid Eligibility Management Handbook identified that in the Medicaid program Intentional Program Violations are considered Fraud. Rick Basiliere and Gene Kucharski responded that the terms have very different meanings. IPV’s are only required to show clear and convincing evidence that the client intentionally failed to report information to obtain or continue public assistance benefits. Fraud requires that the evidence prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the client intentionally failed to report information to obtain or continue public assistance benefits.

Further work will be done on this issue by Nancy Foss during the next few months. Current workload may delay the completion of any issue paper prepared for the group.

Administrative Memo

Rick Zynda distributed a draft of the Administrative Memo on Public Assistance Benefit Recovery of Overpayments, Claims, and Collections. DWD and DHFS will jointly send the memo. The group was asked to review the memo and accompanying data tables and get comments back to Mr. Zynda.

As an initial response to the memo, the group emphasized a need for statewide performance standards and dedicated staff with an adequate funding source. There was discussion on potential Food Stamp claims and on the lack of effort in the area of investigation of MA overpayment claims.

Workplan

The group began a discussion on the “Public Assistance Program Integrity / Fraud Prevention Workplan”. Funding and structure will be reviewed separately. The error

investigation process will be defined first; then the group will decide where funding can be found.

At the next meeting, the county representatives will present their county's workflow model. The county representatives are asked to send their models to Rick Zynda in advance of the next meeting. Mr. Zynda will have the models sent to the workgroup members as a package prior to the meeting. The focus of the October meeting will be in developing a standard error investigation model that includes prevention.

Next Meeting

Future meetings will be at the WI Department of Agriculture Building. The meeting room may change so please check as to whether the meeting will be in Room 266 or in the Board Room (1st Floor).

Jodi Ross will be joining the workgroup beginning with the October meeting. She will be the funding expert as her duties include recommending funding allocations for the county contracts.

Note Change -- Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2003 – 9:30 am – 12:30 pm – location WI Department of Agriculture Building, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Room 266.

IMAC Public Assistance Program Integrity/Fraud Prevention Ad Hoc Subcommittee Monthly Meeting Minute Taker

August 03	Gene Kucharski
September 03	Nancy Foss
October 03	Mary Mireles
November 03	Virginia Wiedenfeld
December 03	Fay Simonini
January 04	John Haine
February 04	Jeff Brikowski
March 04	Jim Borgeson
April 04	Rich Basiliere
May 04	Richard Eddings
June 04	John Haine
July 04	Pam Kiern